

Evelynn-Joy Kight-Moore

All information from the last meeting can be read and downloaded from the [cta.org](http://cta.org) site.

Newest Fair Share attempt to dismantle unions – Janus v. AFSCME – will be heard in as early as the spring and could take effect as early as March.

Many of our members do not realize what occurs behind the scenes in the public and private arenas for our members not just at the local levels. Your State and National Union leaders work on issues dealing with safety, advocating for students, legislation and legal services for our members, emergency programs/services, retirement programs, member advocacy, staff support, and providing access to discount programs for their members. Many programs for which you can access on a day-to-day basis are available for free to our members.

Further, our members have strong local active retirees working hard on their behaves to eliminate the Windfall act, picketing school boards for our members for more pay and benefits, and helping other retirees at sites like Yreka fight for stopping the garnishment of monthly retirement checks because their district wrongly reporting income to STRS. Remember you can join members like one of our local Retirees, Harris Kight-Moore, Minority-at-Large, NEA/CTA Retired Board Member, as a Pre-retiree member and continue receiving all the same benefits you receive now after you retire.

Prop 58 – Work group started to review proposed amendments to the California Code of Regulations related to the implementation of creating resources/guidelines for educators.

CAVA – The Charter School Virtual Academy members are CTA members and will be planning on a strike vote on Nov. 1 -2 over their first contract. CAVA is a national for profit organization of virtual academies that are not providing students or staff with adequate resources or providing their staff with safeguard protections.

Redwood Service Center is asking for assistance for their members who lost everything in the fire. They have a Go Fund Me site. State Council members donated over \$7,000.00 to help our fellow union brothers and sisters at Redwood. You can also contribute to their fund if you want.

In addition, as members of CTA, you have access to the CTA emergency fund in a crisis.

Money was also collected for the flood victims in Puerto Rico, and toiletries were donated to help out our homeless in Riverside and San Bernardino.

Elections: Endorsements were made and Gavin Newsome was endorsed for Governor of California, Ed Hernandez for Lt. Governor, and Tony Thurmond for State Superintendent of Public Instruction for 2018. Much discussion and debate occurred over all the endorsements except for Tony Thurmond, who everyone was in agreement over. Go to [cta.org](http://cta.org) for the full list.

You can also access the updated CTA Guide to School Safety on the [cta.org](http://cta.org) website to review safety issues due to the fires, shootings, or

suicides. Please email Michael at [britcartr8@gmail.com](mailto:britcartr8@gmail.com) for stories regarding instances of workplace violence or indoor heat illness to assist the Cal OSHA and school action for safety and health to create regulations that best serve and protect our members.

The Educator also would like to have you consider sending in stories for the “Your Voice” section of the Educator magazine which is being revamped.

Retirement:

Divestment.

AB 20 passed – good deal for CalSTRS – analogy – we don’t kick out the kid because they are bad but attempt to engage and change kid’s behavior/philosophy. This is what we need to do with our investment companies versus risking divestment against making questionable decisions which could have long term negative financial consequences – fund is there to make money and committed to investments that are done in a fiduciary responsible manner to protect the fund.

There was another attempt to undermine the CalSTRS retirement program with several members desiring to shed the GEO Group and Corecivic funds from the CalSTRS portfolio. Remember, every time CalSTRS divests, we, as participants of the program, risk facing a hole in our total assets that could result in increased costs to our new members. CalSTRS officials have a fiduciary responsibility to us but when our members, push their own personal values and beliefs onto the management team to divest, they are affecting everyone’s retirement package in the long run. An example of this might be that we own stock in Company A, which sells something neutral or what we

feel meets our values but it is owned by Company B. Selling off the stock because Company B owns it does not always make good sense since not only could we be taking a loss but we eliminate any potential chance of working with Company B to make positive change within their company. Being able to have a sit at the table has resulted in companies like Wells Fargo bank changing some of their policies and lowering corporation compensation.

More divestment – this one deals with guns and wholesalers – this affects our stock in Walmart and Amazon. This could result in a ten's of billions of dollar hole in our plan. Which if divested could result in districts and our new members contributing up over their max. contribution under the law and beyond.... This means the potential for pay and benefit increases goes down for all of us and hurts our newest teachers most. AB 1869 would have to be opened up and currently it is going to take 32 years to fix the 74 Billion dollar hole that exists – this is based on the \$250 billion compounded interest that will be accumulating over the 32 years.

Retirement Leg. Advocate Jennifer Baker – stated that the Sacramento environment is really different right now and people we thought were our allies are flipping quickly. Some of our friends may not help or not be as strong as CTA needs them to be and CTA may be forced to pick up more and more responsibilities for public education, particularly if the Supreme Court sides with Janes. CTA needs to develop more strategies that look at what can we live with and determine when and when we must draw a line in the sand and stay firm and what things we can't tolerate. Leg. Advocates are charged with doing what CTA members want and standing rules need to be changed based on CTA's priorities. Some bills can be killed at the first meeting.

No new bills came down the road these past few months but after Janes those bills may come back and be gutted, and rewrote and rushed through. CTA advocates will have to make quick decisions with a three-day window. Remember the cost of signature gathering goes up the closer we get to the voting deadline.

Chuck Reid – is against pensions and trying to eliminate our plan – hasn't been working here in California lately and has switched to several other states which have right to work policies where make them more vulnerable and not as strong so more subject to losing their rights due to his continued attacks on pension programs. He is currently, working in Kentucky to try to erode pension retirement plans.

Numerous anti-pension defined benefit plans propaganda articles are being written that have skewed data – One of these proponents are from Dave Kramer, a Stanford professor. Claiming our pensions take money away from other programs like the 911 system and public schools.

CALSTRS managers are being asked to be

- More transparent
- Provide justification for expenditures – if proposals are reasonable then costs are okay
- Want to make sure CalSTRS is accountable to our members – CalSTRS works for us as the stakeholders.

**Back on one of my pet peeves.** The US Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) came and spoke to the Retirement Committee and stressed the fact that so many of our members have been literally “screwed” out of their retirements because they have had “sales

persons” come in during lunch time and sell our members products that have high costs and little return for our members. We are not protected and end up with products that only result in nice retirements for the company or salespeople. Our members have a lot of questions. Go to [www.sec.gov/teachers](http://www.sec.gov/teachers) and [www.investor.gov](http://www.investor.gov). Remember CTA and Pension 2 plans are both programs that do not have surrender charges and low fees. These are perks of being a CTA member.

Make sure you look at your CalSTRS Progress Report and verify that you received the amount refunded to the district that you are supposed to receive on your next check or the November check.

If you are interested in a small group meeting with CalSTRS, it is easier to get an appointment in the summer than in the spring and that scheduling a meeting prior to age 55 may not provide you adequate enough information for retirement planning. You are better off attending the workshops for retirement planning till 55 to work on developing plans for supplemental funding sources to make up for future deficits in your pension plan. Remember you need to have between 20-40% outside sources to make up the difference between your pension and what you’re currently making. I believe the average teacher retirement pension benefit has risen but believe currently still only between \$3,500 to \$4,000 a month on an average.

Retirement Committee made a recommendation to study and make recommendations to bring death benefit payments in line with Social Security.

Some issues with Charters joining CalSTRS – can spike salaries

## **Credentialing:**

There are some issues with CTE credentialing for dual certification. There are multiple pathways for certification and there are inequalities in the pathways – some are grandfathered, or made to take numerous other classes. CTE programs are under Perkins review. See [cta.org](http://cta.org) website – 2D to find out more about the dual certification for single subject and designated subject career technical education teaching credentials.

Still have issues with the Sped add-on for general ed. teachers and because of that the Sped. Credentials are on hold for review. Remember with the specialist credential, having a general ed. credential went by the wayside and that is now creating a problem.

Sped.

Issues with Sped students not having the same chances for employment when they receive a certificate as their peers with diplomas for grants to receive monies for certificate programs.

New Dyslexia guidelines from CDE – <http://bit.ly/2yHZyQ5>.

Charters:

School boards can ask future charters school applicants to request startups in their areas to provide Environmental Impact Studies as part of the process.

Assessments: Remember that all testing required – such as bench marks. AB 1035 provides more autonomy and teacher control of interim assessments. See [cta.org](http://cta.org) concerning the bill – you are not required to use the SBAC interim assessment. If districts choose to use

interim assessments, classroom teachers must be involved in choosing the interim assessment. That does not mean that only a handful of teachers make the choice for everyone.

SPS members check with local presidents regarding the CTA Extended Educators Employment Liability Program (medical arts endorsement). It covers nurse, athletic trainers, physical therapists and other educators who are required to render medical services or supervision as part of their jobs.